

# Knowledge for Change and The University of Salford

Professor Louise Ackers

Supporting Ethical and Sustainable Development Projects  
in Uganda and Tanzania



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

# What is Knowledge for Change (K4C)

- ▶ K4C is a UK based charity, hosted by the University of Salford, that provides ethical and sustainable educational placements and training opportunities in the healthcare and education sectors in Uganda and Tanzania.
- ▶ Objectives: Capacity Building and strengthening the Health and Education Systems in Uganda
- ▶ Focus: K4C focuses on mutually beneficial projects aimed at making sustainable improvements to one of the most poorly resourced countries in the world whilst also bringing knowledge and experience back to the UK/Norway
- ▶ Research: K4C works with the University of Salford and other partners to conduct high-impact research – our research findings guide our project design and implementation.



# Our Recent Projects

- Capacity Building through Professional/Student Volunteering
- Infrastructural Developments to Hospitals and Schools
- Biomedical Engineering and Equipment Maintenance
- Prosthetics, Orthotics and Rehabilitation services
- Infection Prevention & Control Projects
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and wound management
- 'WeCare' Project: Respectful Midwifery Care
- Supporting the Ugandan Blood Transfusion Service
- Cervical Cancer Screening Programme
- Supporting Mountains of the Moon University Degree Programmes
- British Commonwealth Fellowship Exchanges
- Amongst others!



# Research Market Opportunities (2023/24)

- ▶ K4C has identified 4 key areas of focus for research in 2023/24:
  1. Assessing barriers and improving access to education for school-age girls in Uganda.
  2. Improving wellbeing and education of children with disabilities in Cannon Apollo School, Fort Portal.
  3. Reviewing the current provision of social work support for patients with diabetes and/or following amputation.
  4. Analysing the effect of gender roles on women's access to healthcare services (e.g. family planning, cervical screening and antenatal care)



Research Question 1:

“What are the barriers to girls’ access to education in Uganda (and what interventions could reduce these barriers)?”

- ▶ K4C has existing links with several primary and secondary schools
- ▶ What are the main reasons for girls leaving education?
- ▶ Reviewing governmental and local council policies
- ▶ Reviewing the role of ‘senior women’ in the Ugandan school system
- ▶ Linked research question: factors impacting the rollout of the HPV vaccine for girls in Uganda
- ▶ Research location: Fort Portal, Uganda



## Research Question 2:

“How can we improve the wellbeing and education of children with disabilities at Cannon Apollo School, Fort Portal?”

- ▶ K4C has partnered with Canon Apollo School for several years (pre-Covid-19).
- ▶ Previous OsloMet students have done their masters dissertations on the experiences of disability in Uganda.
- ▶ K4C is broadening this previous research to now include disabled children at Canon Apollo School to assess needs and ways of support.
- ▶ This will include reviewing current governmental and local council policies for education for disabled children
- ▶ Research location: Fort Portal, Uganda



*Research Question 3:*

“What are the key challenges for patients living with diabetes and post-amputation, and what is the current provision for social work support?”

- ▶ K4C opened a newly renovated rehabilitation centre at Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital in March 2022
- ▶ Currently planning several new projects focusing on raising awareness about diabetes and improving healthcare for patients with diabetes.
- ▶ Diabetes is a leading (and growing) cause of lower-limb amputation in East Africa (and elsewhere)
- ▶ Beyond the clinical intervention: what is the current level of social work support for amputees, and what more can be done?
- ▶ Placement locations: Fort Portal (Uganda) and Zanzibar (Tanzania)



*Research Question 4:*

“How do gender roles impact women's access to healthcare services (e.g. family planning, cervical screening and antenatal care)?”

- ▶ K4C setup its 1<sup>st</sup> cervical screening and treatment service at Kagote Health Centre in 2017, but still facing challenges in increasing uptake of services despite them being free to access.
- ▶ Anecdotal evidence that this may partly be due to gender dynamics within the household, and that this may impact women's access to other similar services.
- ▶ Generate an evidence base to inform an intervention (e.g. a targeted awareness raising campaign).
- ▶ Placement locations: Fort Portal (Uganda) and Zanzibar (Tanzania).





# Benefits of International Placements

- ▶ Personal benefits
- ▶ 'Soft' / Transferrable skills
- ▶ New exposures
- ▶ Content specific competencies
- ▶ Career Benefits
- ▶ Life-long memories



# Fort Portal, Uganda

- Town in Western Uganda and capital of Kabarole District
- Population: roughly 80,000 (serves 3+million)
- Foot of the Rwenzori Mountain Range
- Edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park
- Roughly 24 degrees for most of the year



# Zanzibar, Tanzania

- Semi-autonomous Island off the east coast of Tanzania
- Capital is Stone Town / Zanzibar City
- Population of 1.5M
- Roughly 30 degrees for most of the year
- Partnering with Mnazi Mmoja Hospital



# K4C Accommodation

- ▶ You will be based in a house with 8 double bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, and an outdoor seating area
- ▶ Each bedroom has 1-2 double beds (2 students per room) with mosquito nets
- ▶ Kitchen is equipped with a gas cooker, fridge, freezer, microwave, toaster and kettle
- ▶ In a secure compound with a guard and a cleaner
- ▶ 15 minute walk to the town centre and main hospital
- ▶ Shared Wi-Fi system



# Questions?

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